MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You will now put a question. Come on.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister, while giving his answer to the questions raised by some hon. Members here, has said that one party was asking for the maximum and another party was asking for the minimum and said, let us forget the past. I don't think the Tamil representatives are asking for or taking the maximum advantages. They only want citizenship rights, proportional representation and equal rights because they have shed their blood, sweat and tears for the development of Sri Lanka. I want to know specifically from the Minister what exactly are the reasons preventing the Government of Sri Lanka from giving all these rights to the Sri Lanka Tamilians. I also want to know whether all these things were discussed during the last meeting and, if not, whether there is any proposal to discuss all these things during the August, 12 meeting.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, when I mentioned about maximum and minimum, I mentioned a convention only. I wasn't sitting at the conference table myself. But I earnestly hope that when they discuss it, all the aspects of the question will be discussed and only then a political solution will be found.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 43. I think we have had all the discussion on this.

Reopening of the Indian Consulate in Lhasa

*43. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:†
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has invited India to reopen its Consulate in Lhasa; and

(b) if so, what is India's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) The Chinese Government have proposed the re-establishment by China and India of Consulates General in each other's countries. The Government of India are carefully studying the proposal.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Sir, we are happy that as a result of the dynamic approach of our Prime Minister there are gestures from our neighbourly China, to improve and promote age-old good neighbourly relations based on the principles of peaceful co-existence. There are disputes in the eastern sector and the western sector but, at the same time, the fact cannot be ignored that whatever line has to be developed in this regard cannot be done in isolation but in line with India's overall China policy. May I know, Sir in this background, whether the initiative of China is to settle all the outstanding issues it is limited to reopening of our Consulate-General offices in Lhasa and Shanghai to facilitate the traditional land trade and, if the latter is the case, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how do we reconcile and what are the proposals of the Government.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, we already had about five meetings with the Chinese representatives and various matters were discussed

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nand Kishore Bhatt.

with them. Certain progress has been made, but the main issue is regarding the boundary line where 15,000 square miles of our area is under unauthorized occupation of China and we feel that unless some solution is found to this particular question, it would be difficult for us to take further steps.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Only a couple of days ago there were conflicts between the troops of Pakistan and India in the western sector in Aksai Chin area. The Pakistani soldiers were repulsed by our soldiers. Unfortunately, the Pakistani soldiers were helped by the Chinese soldiers. May I know how, in that position, the Government reacts to the offer which has come from China?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, this offer has nothing to do with the incident which the hon. Member has mentioned regarding the help by the Chinese soldiers to the Pakistani soldiers. I suppose the question can be put to the Defence Minister. He will be in a better position to answer.

श्रीमती रत्न कुमारी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, चीन की ओर से भारत का लहासा में अपना वाणिज्य दूतावास खोलने के लिये आमंत्रण प्राप्त हुआ है । यह आमन्त्रण तब मिला जब हमारे लोकप्रिय प्रधान मंत्री रूस की सद्भावना यात्रा पर थे ।

क्या यह सच है कि चीन में भी लहासा के साथ भाईचारे चीन ने लहासा के साथ भाईचारे में भी भारतीय दूतावास खोलने का प्रस्ताव किया है ? परन्तु चीन अभी भी भारत की बहुत सारी भूमि पर अवैध कब्जा किये हुये हैं । तो इस प्रकार के समझौते करने के पहले क्या उस सम्बन्ध में भी निश्चय किया जाएगा क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इसका उत्तर देंगे ?

श्री खुर्शीद आलम खान : मान्यवर मैंने अपने पिछले जवाब में यही जवाब दिया है ।

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, both India and China want to develop friendly relations. There was the unfortunate incident of 1962. China allegedly has in its possession a large portion of the Indian territory. According to the Minister, about 50,000 sq: km. are under illegal possession of China. Similarly, a large portion of the Indian territory is under illegal possession of Pakistan. Both countries want to have friendly relations with each other. Under these circumstances, now China has initiated to have consulates to be reopened at Shanghai and Lhasa. So far as our border question is concerned, we have to settle this, not by war, but by peaceful methods. I think for this it necessary that by negotiations, by discussions, whatever territory is in the unauthorised possession of China, we have to recover. And also from Pakistan. So, it is necessary that we must establish friendly relations with those countries. We have to give proper response. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government of India is seriously considering to have friendly relations with China so that we may recover the territory of our country which is in unauthorised possession of China. For that it is necessary to establish consulates in both India and China.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, for establishing friendly or cordial relations we have the Embassy. The Embassy is a better place to work for such relationship. But at the moment, opening a consulate is a matter which is still under consideration, and we have taken no decision yet.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Sir, in recent years there have been efforts by both countries to have exchange of delegations cultural and otherwise, for improvement of relations. At the same time, we find that the main crux of the problem, the main problem, of the territory has not yet been solved. I would like to know from the Minister whether the visit of the invitation to the Prime Minister of our country to visit China and *vice versa* are going to be dependant on the solution of the problem of the territory that is being held by

China. Will that have to be solved before a date and time is fixed?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, Prime Minister has received invitations from so many countries and naturally it will depend upon his convenience, which country he will visit and when.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, it seems to me that there is some rethinking on the part of the Chinese leadership. So, I want to know from the Minister whether it is reflected in our talks with them with regard to India, and if so, how we respond to it.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: There will be reciprocal response.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vishvajit Singh.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I would like to know whether there is re-thinking or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: That was my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. That has been answered. Mr. Vishvajit Singh.

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the offer of China to India to reopen its Consulate in Lhasa assumes special significance in the face of the diplomatic offensive launched by China regarding its borders with neighbouring countries. For example, Sir, I have learnt that talks are going on between China and Bhutan regarding the Sino-Bhutanese border. That border, Sir. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Relevance?

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: It is very relevant. Please bear with me. Sir, we very rarely get a chance to discuss China. I hope you will permit some leeway to put this question which is connected with China.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am bound by the rules. Please be relevant.

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: The hon. Minister has said that this issue of reopening the Consulate is still under consideration. I would like to urge upon the Minister that whenever it is considered finally, this diplomatic offensive launched by China should also be taken into consideration and only on that basis we should be able to come to some conclusion whether we really want to reopen our Consulate or not. I would like to have an aussurance from the hon. Minister whether he is going to take this into consideration

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: We have noted the hon. Member's views.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Manufacture of Nuclear Bomb by Pakistan

*44. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. President was requested to persuade Pakistan Government not to manufacture nuclear bomb and he was also requested not to supply sophisticated weapons to Pakistan during the Prime Minister's recent visit to that country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) During his recent visit to U.S.A., Prime Minister discussed the question of the supply of sophisticated US weapons to Pakistan and certain aspects of Pakistan's nuclear programme.

(b) The US Government was informed that arms supply to Pakistan made us divert scarce resources from development to defence purchases and led to an arms race in the subcontinent.

Regarding certain aspects of Pakistan's nuclear programme, President Reagan, had assured us that the US